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7 March 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director/Plans

SUBJECT: Possible Psychological or Other Activities Which the United States Could Take with Reference to the Death of Stalin

This memorandum is to confirm our conversation of yesterday with respect to actions which the United States might take with reference to the death of Stalin. To my mind, three points are of major significance, namely:

1. The United States and its officials should refuse to concede that the mantle of Stalin has fallen upon the shoulders of any single individual within the Soviet hierarchy. It seems to me of some psychological importance to adopt the Soviet line that Stalin was unique, because under present conditions it puts the lesser men now in control in an unenviable position.

2. I concur in the view of [REDACTED] and his group that this might be an excellent time to initiate some type of negotiations with the USSR.

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3. As an alternative, I think that we should seriously consider a direct approach to Mao designed to emphasize his superiority over the present Russian ruling clique. In making such an approach we should recall that admission to the UN is a primary objective of the Chinese Communists.

SIGNED

LOFTUS E. BECKER  
Deputy Director/Intelligence

*Orig - to address  
cp 2-9 DDI (#3-Chrono)*

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